

Remarks

Preliminary Matters

Claims 66-70, and 72-74 are presented for reconsideration. Claim 66 has been amended. Claims 1-65, 71, and 75 have been canceled.

References to paragraph numbers in the Specification are taken from the Official Publication hereof, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0138007.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 71 and 75, which were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 66-73 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Cole et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,571,239 (Cole).

Independent claim 66 has been amended to more particularly define the invention and to distinguish Cole.

In paragraph 9 of the Official Action, the Examiner has interpreted the element in claim 66 "adding the queries to the respectively identified documents as metadata" as reading on Cole's technique of linking queries to documents. Cole proposes updating one or more document indices in a repository by adding queries (keywords) with no change to the data objects (documents) themselves.

Amended claim 66 now includes an additional limitation: "adding the queries to the respectively identified documents themselves as metadata" to more specifically define the invention by reciting structural modification of the actual documents. This

contrasts with Cole's disclosure of linking a modified index to the documents without structural modification of the documents.

The amended language of claim 66 is supported in paragraph [0022] ("Index enhancer 16 may add the terms to the documents themselves (as metadata), or to their representation in index 18" [emphasis supplied]). It is clear that two alternatives are disclosed in paragraph [0022]: (1) adding terms to the documents themselves; and (2) adding terms to index 18. Claim 66 is directed to the first alternative.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 74 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole in view of Mittal et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0261021 (Mittal). Claim 74 is believed to be allowable as pending from an allowable base claim.

Concluding Matters

It is believed that this amendment does not impose an additional search burden upon the Examiner, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated with this response to Deposit Account 09-0468.

Respectfully submitted,

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